

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:26

ANSWERED ON:16.11.2007

POWER SHORTAGE

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute power shortage in certain areas of the country, although those areas produce huge amount of power which gets transferred to other areas, particularly in the North Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the North Eastern States are set for mega power drive as reported in the Economic Times dated August 19, 2007; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the strategies planned for the purpose therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 16.11.2007 REGARDING POWER SHORTAGE.

(a) & (b) : There is an overall shortage of power in the country. The quantum of shortage varies from day to day and hour to hour, depending upon the demand and supply of power. Certain areas of the country witness higher degrees of shortage of electricity, primarily due to lack of adequate generating capacity of their own and the type of generation capacity. The shortage of power in the North Eastern Region is primarily due to the fact that the generation of power in this region is mainly from hydro power stations, which is dependent on water inflows. During the monsoon season, hydro power generation peaks while the overall demand in that region is not so high. Some States sell power to other regions. During the non-monsoon, winter months, hydro power generation goes down relative to the demand in the region, making the deficits more pronounced.

The energy and peaking shortages in the country during the period April'07 to October'07 were 7.3% and 14.6% respectively. The details of State- wise power supply position in the country both in terms of energy (MU) and peak (MW) during the year 2007-08 (upto October, 2007) are given at Annex-I. During 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto September'07), the export of power from the Eastern and Southern Regions to other regions constituted the bulk of the inter-regional exchanges. Details of the inter-regional exchanges during 2006-07 and 2007-08 (April to September) are enclosed at Annex-II.

The main reasons for the shortage of power in the country are as under:-

- (i) Demand for power in the States outstripping the growth in their generation capacity addition.
- (ii) Low Plant Load Factor of some of the older thermal generating units, mostly in the State Sector.
- (iii) Inadequate availability of gas.
- (iv) High Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses including theft of electricity.
- (v) Poor financial position of State Utilities rendering it difficult for them to raise the resources necessary for making required investments to create adequate generation, transmission and distribution system.

(c) & (d) : The article in The Economic Times dated 19.8.2007 appears to express the views of the author and is not based on any official press release from this Ministry.

However, the North Eastern region have large hydro electric potential aggregating 58,971 MW as per the re-assessment studies carried on by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) during 1978-87. According to information available with CEA, the capacity addition programme during the 11th Plan period in the North Eastern Region is expected to be 4,284 MW. The details are given at Annex-III.